

THE FALCON FLYER

September 12, 2011

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral

Dear Floral Families,

Last week we wrote about the FACTS acronym we use at Floral Street to help guide our students in living out our core value of *maximizing our achievement*. We'll continue introducing the words of FACTS one at a time throughout the month.

Two of our other core values at Floral Street are *working together* and *respect*. To provide guidance on these values, we have another acronym, though this one we didn't develop ourselves. This one comes from the developers of *Responsive Classroom*, a system we use to help build community and independent learners. This acronym is CARES, and stands for:

C	Cooperation
A	Assertion
R	Responsibility
E	Empathy
S	Self-Control

While we haven't been focusing on these words yet as a whole school, they are a large part of classroom discussions during our initial days and weeks, to lay the groundwork for using them all year long. Go ahead and ask your child about them and how they use them throughout the day to be a good citizen, a good friend, and a good student.

As always, we appreciate it when you share your successes, and your challenges if you are finding them, with us. Best wishes for a great second week of school and the year ahead.

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Important Notes:

Curriculum Nights

At the bottom of this notice you will find the dates for our upcoming Curriculum Nights. These are an important opportunity to strengthen our home-school connection. We hope to see you there, and want to make two important notes now:

- Our Curriculum Nights begin at **6:45 pm** so that administrators can provide a brief but broad curriculum overview, allowing teachers to provide more detail in individual presentations. This is an initiative of our School Council, designed to support parents in their understanding of Floral Street School.
- Please make every effort not to bring students or siblings to the Curriculum Nights.

Emergency Contact Information/Elementary Handbook Sign Off

Emergency contact information must be updated/confirmed for all students electronically. Parents may access the *Demographic Update* page to make changes and/or confirm your child's information via the *PowerSchool Parent Portal* on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website under *Quick links*. The link is: <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/>

The Elementary Handbook can be found on the Floral Street School website at <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/departments/index.php?fDD=12-0> . Please read and review with your child.

To make/confirm emergency contact information and acknowledge that your child has read and reviewed the Elementary Handbook:

- Go to the SPS website
- Click on *PowerSchool Parent Portal*, and then again at the bottom of the page
- Sign in using your *Username* and *Password* (follow the *Account Creation Directions* if you don't have a *Username* and *Password*)
- Click on *Demographic Change* in the upper right corner
- Update your child's information
- Click the button at the bottom certifying your changes and acknowledging that you and your child have read and discussed the Elementary Handbook

PTO

Do you want to learn more about the PTO and ways to be involved? Please join us this Wednesday from 9:15am-10:15am as the PTO hosts a coffee in the Floral cafeteria for parents to learn more about the Floral Street School PTO and the opportunities available to help in PTO projects that occur throughout the year. PTO members will answer your questions about opportunities to get involved, typical time commitments and how the PTO works to support the Floral Street School teachers and staff. We will focus on the Floral Family Fun Fair that will be held on Saturday, November 19th and the opportunities to help plan the fair. If you are unable to attend but would like more information please contact PTO President, Hannah Kane, at hkane@townisp.com.

The PTO is conducting the Genevieve's Fundraiser running September 6th - 20th. The beautiful brochure sent home last week contains wonderful products including Barefoot Contessa & Stonewall Kitchen! Also, if 6 or more items are ordered you will earn a Free Pass to Coco Key Water Resort in Fitchburg! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cherie Weinman at (508) 868-4465 or cheriew@townisp.com. **Please remember to submit your order forms on or before September 20th.**

Curriculum Nights: The PTO will be on-hand at all 4 Curriculum nights and will have a table in the lobby where you can sign up to help at some of the various events we hold throughout the year. Parents are welcome to volunteer as little or as much as they want, every volunteer helps! *We will also be selling Floral Street School apparel, which includes t-shirts, baseball shirts, sweatshirts, fleece jackets and hats, and we accept cash and checks.*

The Elementary Lunch Menu can be found at any time at:

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/departments/division.php?fDD=20-17>

Important Fall Dates:

September 16	School Picture Day
September 20	Grade 1 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
September 21	Grade 2 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
September 26	Grade 3 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
September 27	Grade 4 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
October 10	No School – Columbus Day
November 1	Parent Conferences (No School)
November 11	No School – Veterans' Day
November 23-25	No School – Thanksgiving Vacation

The full district school calendar is available at on our homepage!